

Club President Update July/August 2024

Wild West Weekend and Euros

What a brilliant few weeks the Club has just hosted! It was great to see both our hosting of big screen England matches and the Wild West Weekend so well supported by both members and visitors from far and wide. A big well done to everyone who worked so hard to create, produce and deliver it all.

The Lower Car Park Lives Again

Another large and essential project completed. Alongside professional contractors, Committee and Club volunteers put in many hours to make sure the ground was ready for tarmacking. This work, although expensive, was done to allow the Club to grow its business in future, so a worthwhile investment. There are some bits of work to finish off which will be done in the coming weeks.

Next on the Works list

We want to tidy the area to the right-hand side of the Club with a new surface, refreshed seating and shade. To keep the costs to a minimum, Committee members and perhaps you?! will be putting some time into that. We'll let you know when a date for the work is in the diary.

Club heating – you may remember that we had to replace the boiler last December. Things didn't work as we'd hoped with numerous breakdowns. It isn't the boiler, but the ancient system of pipes and radiators in the Club. Work is now being costed and planned to fix that issue ready for when we really need heat later in the year.

Fixing the Ladies loo damp problem is a high priority and will be hopefully completed next month.

You will also notice that the outside of the Club is starting to look smarter with the render being repaired and painted and new guttering to help alleviate the leaking roof above the kitchen. The costs here are being kept to a minimum because we are thinking even more carefully about how to approach these essential jobs.

New Business

Our application to become a Wedding venue is now with North Northamptonshire Council. This has been a very long winded a complex piece of work led by our General Manager Layla. The Committee is keeping a close eye on the upfront costs. They are the Licence and some improvements in the Club which include new lighting in the large room. Once done, this will become a major revenue stream for the Club helping to secure our long-term future.

The Committee

It wouldn't be a proper update without mentioning our Committee. Everyone gives their time, commitment and expertise for free. They do this because they believe in the Club and what it stands for in our community.

Much of what you see going on has their stamp on it. They work not only to ensure the Club is run efficiently and to the highest standards, but also to support the work of our great front of house team, our 'engine room'!

Sadly, we've not been able to identify someone to replace me – yet! But we do need someone with the ability to oversee our great teams and to guide their work.

In the meantime, I'm very grateful to the Trustees and Committee for their willingness to share the President role out between them, but we would all love to be able to say we have someone in our membership who is able to join them and to lead the work they do.

So, please have a think – could that be you?! If so, email me at taschini57@gmail.com or contact one of the Trustees, David Smith, Rick Brawn, Shirley Pearson or Chris Davies.

Congratulations to Martin Putnam, who has been awarded Life Membership of the Club in recognition of his many years' service. Thank you Frank!

Goodbye from me..

I chaired my last Committee meeting this week. After 18 months of what has been an incredible process (for all sorts of good and not so good reasons!) I'm stepping down and handing over to a group of really talented and committed people who I'm also proud to call my friends.

Leaving with me is my wife Claire, who although not on the Committee, played a pivotal role in looking after the HR issues after the closure of the Club last year and who has worked as voluntary HR service since then. She's also had to endure many hours of having to listen to me about Club work, and patiently waiting with a large gin whilst I was distracted during our Friday nights out!

We will now be watching on the side lines as the Club continues to grow but be in support whenever and for as long as needed.

Last but far from least, thanks to you, our members who have supported our work in all sorts of ways to bring the Club back from the dead and who continue to come and spend time and money making sure we have a Club we can be proud of and which has a very bright future.

Best wishes,

Steve